

## OPENING OF SCHOOL EDITION

# THE BELL RINGER

Montgomery Bell Academy

4001 Harding Road Nashville, TN 37205

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## New Assistant Coaches Impact Team

By Jay Milam  
News Editor

MBA added three new assistant football coaches this summer who provide valuable instruction and enthusiasm to the team.

Sean Brock comes to MBA as strength and conditioning coach, as well as defensive ends coach. He oversaw weight-lifting and conditioning for the players all through the summer. Coach Brock attended BGA where he was taught by Mr. Ferrell, and he then went to the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga before coaching at several high schools in the Midstate. Coach Brock brings enthusiasm and focus to the football team. Because of his strenuous summer conditioning program, the players have already seen during scrimmages what a huge advantage they have over opponents. The players are confident that the hard work in the summer will pay off late in the season and during the playoffs.

MBA also adds two very experienced coaches from Dyersburg, Tennessee. Coaches James Counce II and James Counce III are valuable additions to the offensive coaching staff. Coach Counce II, previously head coach at Dyersburg High School, coaches running backs and adds experience and knowledge to the staff. His son, James Counce III, coaches the offensive line. Coach Counce III played offensive line for MTSU and has a son, Caleb, entering the 8<sup>th</sup> grade at MBA.

Coach Counce provides intensity and toughness to this physical offensive line. After each practice and scrimmage, you can find the offensive and defensive lines on the practice field, pushing Coach Counce's homemade sled after everyone else has gone in. These three coaches have already made a huge impact on the team and are excited about what the team will do. As Coach Counce III says, "[We're] getting better each day."



MBA football team at last year's game against McCallie

## Mr. Ferrell Speaks about Admissions

By Brian Swenson  
Features Editor



The Director of Admissions himself

Greg Ferrell, an MBA science teacher and microbe track and cross-country coach, was named the new Admissions and Financial Aid Director earlier this year. This "amiable gatekeeper" for all prospective MBA students recently met with me to discuss his new position.

Mr. Ferrell sees his job as composed of three principal parts. "I meet with families to try to determine if MBA is a good fit for them, to award financial aid, and to work with the summer program," he says. Sorry, Mr. Gioia, but Mr. Ferrell believes that he has the best job at MBA. He elaborates, "I get to tell people what is so special about MBA."

For this upcoming year, Mr. Ferrell plans to continue many traditional admissions practices at MBA, such as the annual Open House. He does, however, wish to try some new techniques for the purpose of attracting boys from non-traditional feeder schools. His biggest priority is adopting a policy of *glasnost* (if I may). He says, "I want to be accessible to parents and families when they have

any questions at all, such as questions about ISEE testing."

One novel idea is the Influential Teacher Program, in which new boys must reflect upon a teacher who genuinely influenced them and the way they see the world. They then invite that teacher to visit MBA. Its goal is twofold: "It lets boys think introspectively about their elementary school careers, and it gets teachers on campus to see what is great about MBA." MBA will purchase books for its library in recognition of each teacher.

For this year, MBA's incoming seventh grade will have students from thirty-eight schools, consisting of twelve public, twenty private, and six parochial schools. Oak Hill has the most boys represented with twenty-seven, more than a quarter of the new enrollees.

This statistic begs the question: What is MBA attempting to do to attract boys from nontraditional schools? Mr. Ferrell says, "We want to keep good relationships with our traditional feeder schools, but we want the *best* boys in Middle Tennessee. We want families to

observe students actually here and see that they are actually having a great time and are not 'hollow-eyed zombies.'"

Mr. Ferrell also firmly believes that MBA will not change tradition based on any transitory opinions. When asked if he sees MBA starting fifth and sixth grades in the future, he firmly asserts, "No. In the foreseeable future the answer is 'no.' There are not enough great facilities, and we do not want to undermine schools like St. Paul and Oak Hill."

Meeting with families is a large part of his job, as is quelling any misgivings that the families may have with concerns that MBA is expensive and single-gender. He wants families to see that both of these points are actually non-issues. "MBA granted \$1.1 million this year in financial aid, with 19% of students being on financial aid of some kind. Also, research has shown that single-sex education is more conducive to learning."

Finally, I asked him what challenges he expects to face this year. He says, "It is challenging for me to admit when I don't know something." It is for me, too, Mr. Ferrell, it is for me, too.

INSIDE:	NEWS.....	1,4,6	ENTERTAINMENT.....	6,8
	EDITORIALS.....	2,3	SUMMER.....	3
	SPORTS.....	2,4,5	STUDENTS.....	6,8





## THE BELL RINGER

Will Orman  
*Editor-in-Chief*

### ASSOCIATE EDITORS

Johnny Mishu, *Sports*

Jay Milam, *News*

Brian Swenson, *Features*

Michael Downing and Alan Schulman, *Entertainment*

Taylor Smyth, *Business Manager*

Will Holt, *Assistant Business Manager*

Mr. Anderson Gaither, *Faculty Advisor*  
Mrs. Anne Christeson, *Faculty Advisor*

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## Gas Prices Raise Little Concern for MBA Drivers

By Pat Killian  
*Staff Writer*

The past summer saw a lot of high numbers, not just in temperatures, but, more upsettingly for everyone's wallets, in gas prices. As drivers are now drained of nearly fifty dollars filling up their tanks, one would assume changes are being effected in the realm of all automobile habits but most notably in those of the student driver. However, upon examining those drivers at MBA, change seems strikingly non-existent.

While the population of students who are required to pay for their own gas must be acknowledged, it is much easier to focus on the larger body that is blissfully devoid of such a burden. For years, turning sixteen has been

synonymous with getting a license and, in many cases, a car of one's own. Such is the trend at our school, where year after year the parking lot overflows onto Brighton Road as more freshmen and sophomores join the ranks of car owners.

The overflow also attests to the fact that car pools are very seldom pursued; those hook-ups that do exist are mainly arranged to avoid early morning rushes; the notion that gas is saved in the process is usually a convenient afterthought. While still gazing at the parking lot, one will also notice the vast population of SUVs and dwindling number of compact, high-mileage vehicles. Surveys directed at these new drivers asking those with driving restrictions or a share in the gas payments to come forward have sadly seen little reply; MBA's student drivers and their families seem unconcerned about the rising cost of driving and

oblivious to the many opportunities (explored below) to combat this cost.

First, the city of Nashville has improved its public transportation system (which has for a long time been quite inadequate) with the addition of the MTA BusLink program. These small buses make several stops throughout the Green Hills and Belle Meade area and could possibly make a nice alternative to driving around town to the mall and movies. In fact, there is a stop on the road directly behind the Green Hills Mall and Regal Cinemas. However, this program is Nashville-exclusive, and thus does not reach a great chunk of the student body and arguably was not fully intended for to- and from-school travel but more for the transportation of household help from the outskirts of the city into the Belle Meade and Green Hills areas.

Second, there are the many, new, fuel-efficient car

designs available for those people who still demand a car of their own. Car manufacturers Ford, Chevrolet, and Toyota all now sell Hybrid vehicles, which get more mileage per gallon without sacrificing any aesthetic appeal. Also, the year 2008 will see the arrival of a new car to America, the Smart car. This ultra-small two-seater that has swept across Europe brings a compact design (only 8 feet long), high gas mileage (40 mpg), and miniscule price (starting at \$12,000) that has been sorely missing from the American market. (For more information, visit <http://www.smartusa.com>).

In the face of dwindling oil reserves and rising gas prices, student drivers nowadays have the potential to start new economically and environmentally positive trends. In short, this article is a call to MBA students to break the stereotype, ditch the SUV's, take on the responsibilities of driving, and seek new alternatives.

## Coach Russ Sends a Note from the Cross-Country Team

By Coach Roderick Russ

We are excited as the season begins. We have several strong runners returning, led by senior Tyler Ramsden, juniors Baker Mulherin and Matt Ractliffe, and sophomore David Dalton.

Additionally, several guys are starting to see their hard work pay off and have shown great improvement, especially senior Lindsey Bohannon and sophomore Wiley Hunt. We have a

promising group of incoming freshmen, most notably Ryan Hill and Michael Peters.

After a disappointing finish to last season, the entire team and the coaching staff have dedicated themselves to working harder and being more competitive this year. Obviously, we have been dealing with extremely hot, dry conditions the past couple of weeks, but so far we are doing okay.



Read up at [www.smartusa.com](http://www.smartusa.com)



## One Last Year on the Hill

By Will Orman  
Editor-in-Chief

I can hear the collective groan of MBA students as registration comes earlier than ever this year. For once, we start school on the same day as Harpeth Hall, while in previous years we would laugh as they missed a week of summer that we were savoring. However, the calendar balances out, as we finally have exams before winter break.

Our faculty now includes several new football coaches, new English teachers, and a technology department full of newcomers as well. Our student body is supplemented by a new wave of seventh and ninth graders. This year marks the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Ball Hall. We even have a Chinese program now. There are certainly a lot of reasons for excitement alongside the reasons for dread. If nothing else, I can promise that this year will be interesting.

## Alan Takes the College Tour

By Alan Schulman  
Entertainment Editor

When you hear the words *college trip*, you are quite likely uninspired. Though you know it is important to visit your prospective schools before the application process, visiting sixteen of them during your much-needed summer vacation lessens your ambition. If you don't share these assumptions and feelings, well, at least I did at the end of this past school year. When I found out I would be spending the beginning of my summer away from school visiting more schools, I was less than ecstatic.

However, after arriving at the airport the Friday after school ended, my feelings began to change. I found out many other unsuspecting classmates were on this trip with me. If this failed to delight me enough, I spotted another group... students from Harpeth Hall. That's right, the college trip was in conjunction with Harpeth Hall! We were then handed our boarding passes, told to check-in, and then instructed to head to the stated gate.

For me and my fellow seniors, the hardest part of our MBA experience seems to be behind us, or so everyone says: junior year is the most difficult. I don't know that that's universally true, unless, of course, you're taking Physics AP C, in which case junior year may be the most stressful of your entire life. Honestly, in comparison to that class, the six AP classes I have ahead of me this year aren't scary at all.

There's still a lot to look forward to: a stress-free winter break, actually taking classes you want to take rather than fulfilling requirements, the senior slide, and college applications, not to mention finally being seniors. I'm pretty excited about skipping the lunch line myself.

Overall, though, don't take for granted the last year of high school on the Hill. Teachers still have plenty of wisdom to impart, sports teams have a good deal of teams to, ahem, dominate, and the arts department will surely flourish this year. So don't slip too much that second semester, attend what school events you can, and get closer with your classmates this year, in keeping with the theme of taking care of those around you. Make this year better than all the others you've had here.

"What freedom!" I thought. No obnoxious chaperones, and no single-file lines. At the gate, our supervisor, Kim, alleviated any of the remaining concerns I might have had.

We were told we would have unsupervised free time with our friends in all the cities we would visit (one of which was Boston!) We were then told that the greatest number of schools we would visit each day was three, spending no more than an hour and a half at each.

Every morning of the trip, we got up at reasonable times ranging from 7:30 to 10:30, and proceeded to the schools planned for each day. Once at the schools, we went on tours guided by students of the college. Since these tours were conducted by students, besides hearing about student body size and courses offered (all of which could be found on each school's website), we could ask questions that we really cared about like, "What's the social-life like?" or "How hard is it to get a single dorm?"

Though the better part of each day is spent visiting schools, this tour should not be viewed as an extension of the school year. This trip provides plenty of opportunities to have fun. I hope this review has convinced more students to participate in the college tours next summer, and who knows, you might discover a school not on your list that is perfect for you. I fully recommend this tour to everyone.

## New Zealand Exchange

By Tyler Wright  
Staff Writer

In the middle of June three MBA students, Mr. Klausner, and his wife traveled nearly half way around the world to spend four weeks in New Zealand with a kiwi family. Sam Robinson and Swan Burrus left June 6<sup>th</sup>, while Mr. Klausner, Mrs. Klausner, and I departed a week later due to prior engagements.

We left the Nashville Airport around 1:00pm Monday and landed in Auckland, New Zealand at 6:00am on Wednesday. After a grand total of four plane rides and too many hours in the air to count, I found myself getting into the car in Napier, NZ with my host mother, who greeted me with considerable enthusiasm, as if I were her own son returning home. Because I stayed with the family of the boy whom I had hosted earlier in the spring, introductions seemed more like a reunion, for we had already heard so much about each other.

For the next two weeks I awoke every morning, weekends aside, at 7:15 to go to Lindisfarne College, a school very similar to MBA, located in Hastings of Hawkes Bay, NZ. Sam, and I, as well as two students from Virginia, all went to the same school and took nearly all of the same classes together, ranging from Art, English, and Stat to Media Studies and Recreation. The school day lasted from 8:20 a.m. to 3:20 p.m. everyday, with chapel and assembly both twice a week during school. After-school activities ranged from alternative sport, similar to our weights and running (my personal favorite), to rugby, field hockey, and soccer.

On two occasions the exchange students had the opportunity to travel with different programs of the school to Auckland, the biggest city in New Zealand, and to Wellington, the capital. We traveled first to Wellington, along with the rugby, field hockey, soccer, and debate teams, which travel to Wellington annually to participate in the Scotts Exchange, which is basically an all-day sporting event with all the teams competing. The Lindisfarne boys stay the night before the competitions in the houses of the Scotts boys.

The trip to Auckland was with our Media Studies class, which had been working on commercials that we incorporated in a news program that we recorded at the University of Auckland TV studio. Both trips were a lot of fun, educational, and they got us out of school for a few days.

Because it is winter in New Zealand during our summer, their two-week winter break fortuitously interrupted the school session. During this time my host family brought me to Rotorua, where I was lucky enough to do the extreme sport of Zorbing, which isn't really a sport at all. Rotorua, NZ is the only place in the world where one can "Zorb", which is essentially rolling 200m down a hill in a small sphere inside a much larger sphere.

My host family and I also traveled to Whangamata beach (pronounced Faungamata) and simply relaxed in the beach house of a relative for a week.

When we returned to Hastings, NZ, I had about four days left before returning to Nashville. I spent these days with friends and my host family, simply enjoying the pleasures of Hastings and the surrounding area.

Once home I immediately felt an urge to turn right back around and go back to New Zealand. It was an amazing trip, and I highly recommend it to anyone and everyone who might have the opportunity and even the slightest interest in going abroad.



A New Zealand National Park



## The Student Council and the Service Club Detail Their Plans

By Daniel Green  
Staff Writer

During the summer I talked with the new Student Council President, Andy McLaughlin, and the new Service Club President, Johnny Mishu, about their plans and expectations for the upcoming school year.

Interview with Andy McLaughlin:

**BR:** What sort of events/ plans do you have for the school next year?

**AM:** Along with the Student Council traditional events like Homecoming, the bowling tourney, movie nights, poker tourney, ultimate frisbee tourney, and the talent show, we are going to incorporate a few new events to add a little something extra to the school year. Such events include a pinewood derby, getting the whole Big Red student body into the Krystal Hall of Fame, a beach volleyball tourney, and a car bash/bonfire. We also plan on bringing back the March Madness Bracketology challenge.

**BR:** What is the new student council constitution, and how will it help to get students further involved in activities, decisions, etc.?

**AM:** The new constitution formally outlines our organization and defines us as a council. To highlight some of the articles which aim to increase student involvement: Article 3, Section C states that for every 20 students one representative is added to the council. This increases our man-power and creates a bigger council that will hopefully reach out to all students. Also, the new constitution creates a Junior School Student Council that will collaborate with the high schools when the younger members of our community have an issue to discuss or we need their input on something. So those two pieces should help generate more student involvement in the Student Council affairs.

**BR:** Do you have any plans for making the pep rallies enjoyable and fun again and maybe having pep rallies for important games in other sports as well?

**AM:** Last but not least are the pep rallies...I'm glad you asked about them. We have had several school spirit meetings this summer in an attempt to revive the dying pep around MBA. If all goes well, pep rallies will be moved into the theater with the lights on, music blaring, lights flashing, videos playing, and cheerleaders breakin' it down. We also plan to incorporate the first ever



The pep rally main attraction: cheerleaders

Big Red Drumline into pep rallies. Also, we will have skits and contests as usual, but I feel if we include more technology into our pep rallies and have them inside where the noise grows and grows, we will see a whole new element to Big Red Spirit. Then, as far as other sports, we plan to have pep rallies for them, although dates will be hard to figure out simply because football is the only sport where they play once a week (on Friday). Pep rallies won't just end at sports. We aim to include news about debate, theater, and anything else big happening around school.

Interview with Johnny Mishu:

**BR:** What sort of events, projects, etc. do you have planned for the Service Club this year?

**JM:** We are going to have overall the same projects, with a few new ones thrown in here and there. The main new thing we are doing is having a grade-by-grade competition in which the grade with the most service hours by the end of the quarter gets a day out of uniform or a

barbeque by Mr. Thurmond or free movie tickets to Green Hills.

**BR:** How do you hope to increase the participation in service projects?

**JM:** We are going to make a file on First Class such as "Discussion" and "Announcements" that will have the time and place of all service projects. In previous years, guys would forget about a Soup Kitchen on Saturday when Mr. Gioia briefly mentions it on a morning assembly.

**BR:** Is there anything else that you would like to say about the Service Club's goals for this year?

**JM:** Service is contagious. The more people do, the more others will want to do. So whenever there is an event, tell your friends. We want all of the school involved, including the junior school fellows. The competition and new email system should increase participation, which is the main goal for this year.

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## Football Team Seems Different This Year

By Johnny Mishu  
Sports Editor

There is something about this year's football team. I don't know what it is. It might be all the new-revolution helmets. Yet again, it could be the outstanding speed on defense. Maybe it's the clock counting down to the first football game against Antioch that gets me fired up.

One thing is for certain, there is a certain flair, a swagger, with the Big Red. Don't believe me? Take a peek at the MBA football tee shirt and see what is on the back. You'll find a huge cardinal target, a bull's eye, and that is exactly the attitude that the team has this year. Seeing them in scrimmages against Riverdale and Goodpasture, I saw our guys playing with a "chip on their shoulders", a certain intense (yet sportsmanly) nastiness. Senior defensive end Dane Daniels attributed the intensity in the game to work ethic in practice. Dane says, "The reason we can smash people in the mouth is that we are so dedicated in practice and in the weight room. We have lifted

unbelievably hard this summer, harder than any team anywhere, you can guarantee it. The fire we play with is just an easy transition from the practice field to the game field."

That aforementioned something is a certain intangible, an intangible that has allowed numerous years of undersized, undermanned MBA football teams to dominate their competition. Call it intensity. You can see it every play, even on the sidelines.

I saw Preston Bailey, a blue-chip college football prospect at offensive tackle, cheering on his sophomore teammates playing in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of a scrimmage against Goodpasture like it was homecoming against Ensworth. This sort of teamwork and leadership will pay off in wins.

With an attitude that they cannot be beaten and an unrivaled intensity, the Big Red is ready to make a run for that trophy that has been missing for four years.



## Can the Golf Team Fulfill Its Potential?

By Alex Apple  
Staff Writer

The Montgomery Bell golf team has high expectations and some uncertainty about this year's team.

Coach Michael Kelly said of the team, "We have a good balance of talented veterans such as John Burch, Daniel Leader, Rob Broadhurst, and Jimmy Anderson along with younger members such as Tyler LeRoy, Tyler Paslick and Cody Fisher, who all have fantastic potential."

The team started off the season with a victory over rival Ensforth. The team then recorded its second victory in the Stan McNabb tournament.

The largest tournament of the year thus far was held in Chattanooga. At the Preview Tournament in Chattanooga, the team fared well, coming in fourth on a very long, very tough course. It was a



Well, fancy seeing you here!

## The English Department Faculty Is Busy

By Pat Killian  
Staff Writer

The English Department has proven itself to be perhaps the busiest department at our school. After welcoming three new teachers to the community last year and initiating Poetry Month in April, the department has signed on two more new teachers for the upcoming school year: Dr. Ed Tarkington and Ms. Katherine Veach.

Dr. Tarkington has been teaching for several years on both the high school and college levels. He first graduated from Furman with his undergraduate degree, then went on to receive his Masters degree in English from the University of Virginia. He recently completed all work toward his Ph.D. at Florida State. He has moved to Nashville with his wife and two-month-old daughter. Dr. Tarkington will be teaching English I, English I Honors, and English II, as well as working with a few athletic and service programs. He will replace the beloved Mr. Risen, who left us to further his education.

Ms. Veach has a diverse and versatile educational background, including a BA in Greek and Religion from Samford University and an MA in Religion from Vanderbilt's renowned Divinity School. Ms. Veach will be teaching English 7 and 8 and utilizing her many skills in helping with Debate and Classical Studies.

Be sure to say "Hi" and "Welcome" when passing one of these new teachers on campus.

While not a newcomer to MBA, Mr. Robert Sawyer will be taking on new courses this year as he begins to teach Grammar/Vocabulary and English 7 in the Junior School.

The English Department also plans to continue Poetry Month this year and wants to expand the celebration into assembly readings and such.

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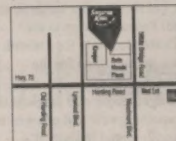
two-day tournament which also included a practice round on Sunday, August 12th. The team stayed overnight in Chattanooga, and Jimmy Anderson managed to set off the sprinklers in his room by clipping one of them with a seven-iron. Coach Kelly really should schedule his practices on the course, not in the hotel rooms.

The region in which the team participates has been expanded to

include Baylor, McCallie, and Webb in addition to other Knoxville and Chattanooga schools as well. As a result, winning the region or qualifying for the state tournament has now become quite a daunting task. Tyler Paslick said that he feels the team is up to the challenge, and Coach Kelly said that he is excited about the new challenges and looks forward to a superb season.

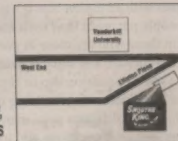
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# Thoroughly Modern Millie Is Coming Soon Debate News

By Will Henry  
Staff Writer

MBA and Harpeth Hall students have been working hard since July 30<sup>th</sup> on this year's musical *Thoroughly Modern Millie*. Some days the cast is in rehearsal from nine in the morning until eight at night. This year, instead of showing at MBA, the play will be performed at Harpeth Hall under the direction of Mrs. Klocko.

The musical is set in Manhattan in 1922 and is about young Millie Dillmount (Stephanie Rothenburg) who is coming to New York to become "modern" and marry her boss (Ryan Penney) in order to become rich. Things go wrong when Millie meets Jimmy Smith (Corbin Williams) and ends up falling in love with him.

Harpeth Hall's theatre is quite different from MBA's. It seats twice as many people, and it actually has a stage rather than the action taking place on the ground with the audience looking down on them. Harpeth Hall's stage is called a proscenium arrangement, while MBA's is more like an amphitheater. Of course, while the MBA theater was in the design process, it was decided to construct a more experimental theater, so that the seats could be arranged to accommodate different types of theater productions.

This year, during rehearsals, Harpeth Hall is using a new piece of equipment called the RehearsScore. It is a computer software program that has all the songs programmed into it. It allows specific parts of the songs to be played so that the song can feel like it's your own, rather than just singing along to a Broadway track.

This year's musical has a twist to it different from the past years' musicals. *Thoroughly Modern Millie* will incorporate tap-dancing in its dance numbers. Mrs. Hamilton is in charge of choreographing the dances. Corbin Williams says, "You would be impressed by all the little hidden things Mrs. Hamilton puts into the numbers." After two and a half weeks of rehearsals, the whole show has been blocked, and all the dances have been learned. It seems amazing that all the guys could learn how to tap dance in so short a time. Corbin, speaking for the rest of the guy cast members, says, "As for the really hard tap steps, well, the girls take care of those."

The show runs from September 6<sup>th</sup> through the 9<sup>th</sup> and there will be a teaser in an upcoming assembly.



## Junior Junkets

By Fadi Pulous  
Staff Writer

The junior class enjoyed a great summer. In preparation for one of the most difficult years in high school, the juniors got busy and at the earliest time possible accomplished their summer reading. At the Dartmouth Debate Institute, Sam Page picked up his summer reading book no less than four times. Sam aside, I'm sure everyone got the reading finished early enough to enjoy the intense heat that this summer brought.

Connor Shope enjoyed his summer with a mission trip. It's great to see people put aside their own summers to help those who are more in need. Hicks Woolwine also did the same. He took a ten-day mission trip to Honduras where he helped with rebuilding tasks.

On a different note, many of the juniors just took vacations and traveled all over the world, from Europe to the Virgin Islands. Some just kicked back on the sandy beaches in Florida. JB Hardin

says he enjoyed his time at the Dartmouth Debate Workshop, but loved completing his kayak in Maine even more.

On that note, the MBA debate team had several members traveling around the nation to some of the most nationally recognized camps. Rahul Sastry flew north into the University of Miami (OH) where he sharpened up on his debate skills. Sam Page also joined him for those three weeks, but shortly afterwards Sam Page and Fadi Pulous flew up to the Dartmouth Debate Institute for a month of intense debate preparations for the upcoming year.

It's safe to say every single junior attempted something new and enjoyed his summer, but with school in sight, it's agreed that it's time to settle down and look forward to an intense year of school work.

By Aaron Lutkowitz  
Staff Writer

During the summer, from June 17<sup>th</sup> through the 22<sup>nd</sup>, the MBA debate and speech team once again participated in the National Forensics League National Tournament, this year held in Wichita, Kansas. The team was surrounded by corn and thousands of the best high school debaters and speakers in the nation. Success accompanied our team.

On the road to nationals, contestants must first pass national qualifiers within their region, and MBA's region was all of Tennessee. Five of MBA's finest were in the top two of their respective divisions in the state and advanced to the national tournament.

During the state competition in extemporaneous speaking, rising senior Max Webster received first place in domestic – questions that primarily deal with the affairs of the United States. Also, rising senior John Moynihan placed second in international affairs – questions that deal with global topics (at the qualifier, he lost only to the eventual winner of international extemp at nationals). Rising senior Will Hannon made it to the final six of international extemp, but closely missed the final cut of the best two.

In policy debate, the graduating team of Kyle Davis and Jamie Berk, after much success in their junior and senior years, obtained first place in qualifiers. In

Lincoln-Douglas debate, rising senior Corey Metzman finished a strong year by reaching the final two and clinching a spot at nationals.

At nationals, these five – Webster, Moynihan, Davis, Berk, and Metzman – represented MBA and Tennessee and brought much pride for their efforts. In extemp, both Webster and Moynihan made it to the quarter-final round in their respective categories out of over 200 speakers.

In policy, Davis and Berk, after twelve grueling debates, made it to the final eight and, after three more debates, finished in fifth place. In Lincoln-Douglas, Metzman performed extremely well in his six debates, winning in the minds of ten out of twelve judges. As the competition continued, only the best competitors remained, and Corey lost in two very close debates – one came down to 2-1 decision.

Webster commented on his experience when he returned to Nashville: "Nationals truly distinguishes the best of the best. It's the only tournament that encompasses every level of competition."

After nationals, the MBA forensics team was active at forensics camps around the nation. These summer camps were hosted by some of the best college forensics program, including University of Texas, George Mason, Western Kentucky, University of Michigan, Miami University (Ohio), Northwestern, Dartmouth, and the National Symposium for Debate in Colorado.

The efforts of the team this summer will prepare it for another successful year. In 2008, instead of the corn fields in Kansas, the national tournament will be held in Las Vegas, and what's debated in Vegas, stays in Vegas!

## Michael Reviews Two CD's

By Michael Downing  
Entertainment Co-Editor

Interpol: "Our Love to Admire" (2007)  
4 out of 5

When a band switches to a more popular record label, frequently its music becomes more predictable and generic. However, Interpol's latest album, *Our Love to Admire* is a break in this trend. Though they have swapped to a much more mainstream record label, Capitol Records, their style has remained the same. The only way their sound has really changed is in the quality of production.

Though this consistency shows Interpol's loyalty to their original fans, the lack of change is in some ways a disappointment. The album seems to be a repeat of its predecessor, *Antics*. I can't deny the brilliance of their previous albums, but some change would have been nice, just to keep things interesting.

Once I got over the fact that this album was nothing too revolutionary, I began to appreciate the superb song writing which has always been a part of Interpol's music. The album begins with the eerie *Pioneer to the Falls*. This song's dark guitar riffs on top of rhythmic drums,

driving bass, and indescribably strange vocals make this song the perfect opener to the album. Other impressive songs include *The Heinrich Maneuver*, *The Scale*, and *Wrecking Ball*, although I believe you enjoy the entire album.

Most of this album is dedicated to the upbeat, melodic style that Interpol has perfected over the years. Though nothing too revolutionary, Interpol's *Our Love to Admire* is definitely worth listening to.



Continued on p. 8



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Phone 615.269.5903 • Fax 615.269.5604

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# Alan and Michael Critique the Movies

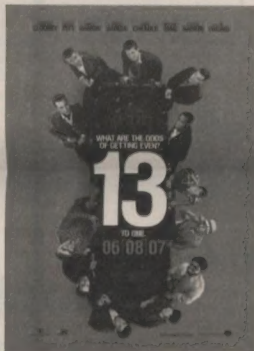
By Alan Schulman and Michael Downing  
Entertainment Co-Editors

*Ocean's 13*: After *Ocean's 12* poor performance, *Ocean's 13* was not a disappointment. However, it still was not able to top its thrilling forerunner, *Ocean's 11*.

*Spiderman 3*: Though action-packed, with four different antagonists, the movie did not live up to the hype.

*Pirates of the Caribbean at the World's End*: Way too long, way too tedious. By far the worst and most disappointing movie of the summer. A terrible end to a fantastic series.

*Knocked Up*: In its entirety this movie was non-stop enjoyment. Every line was a quotable pleasure. Best comedy of the summer.



*Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*: This is the first movie of the series able to capture the darker feel of J.K. Rowling's books. Daniel Radcliffe is becoming more convincing in performance and appearance.

*Ratatouille*: Obviously aimed at a younger audience, it was still enjoyable for everyone. One of Pixar's best.

*Hairspray*: Filled with great 60's music, this movie doesn't disgrace its Broadway counterpart, unlike many other stories from the stage. A lot of fun and some really funny lines.

*The Simpsons Movie*: This was nothing compared to the quality entertainment offered by the TV series, but still some enjoyable moments are found. Nothing too special...

*The Bourne Ultimatum*: One of the few movies able to surpass its two predecessors. This movie showed government incompetence and Bourne's brilliance in unrelenting action.

*Hostel II*: Though not as horrifying as the original, it was still an extreme gore-fest. Gotta love it.

*Fantastic 4 - Rise of the Silver Surfer*: Even though this movie was full of gorgeous special effects, its production seemed rushed. Furthermore, the acting in general was not convincing.

*Live Free or Die Hard*: Other than the fact that Bruce Willis has apparently become invincible, this movie was non-stop action from beginning to end. You remain on the edge of your seat until the end...very suspenseful!

*1408*: A brilliantly delivered, stomach-curdling thriller. Of all the horror films this summer, this one easily tops them all while maintaining a PG-13 rating. (Impressive...) Scariest movie ever!

*Transformers*: Shia Labeouf's performance was remarkable for an actor originating from a Disney channel original series. However, the movie was not so remarkable. Great special effects, no plot whatsoever.

*I Now Pronounce You Chuck and Larry*: Though seemingly hilarious in the commercials, this movie was horribly delivered. Adam Sandler's career may be going down hill.

*Sunshine*: Completely under-advertised. This seemingly high budget movie was anything but disappointing. Though the plot was a little hard to believe, the acting was superb, and the special effects were impressive.

*Rush Hour 3*: This movie offers a smooth transition from the previous two movies in the series. However, irrelevant scenes are included solely for comic effect and provide a distraction from the already loose plot.



## CDs

Continued from p. 6

Say Anything: "...Is a Real Boy" (2007)  
4.5 out of 5

Say Anything has emerged very quickly onto the popular music scene thanks to their debut album "...Is a Real Boy". From the very beginning of the CD I could tell this band was different. Their styles range from alt. rock to pop music with a somewhat comedic twist.

What makes this album so great is that from beginning to end, except for one or two songs, each track could easily be a single. This band has got the concept of catchiness firmly down. The only downside is that in an attempt to be catchy the music can at times be too predictable.

However, the extremely unique style of Say Anything's vocalist, Max

Bemis, keeps any song from being generic in any way. The high points of this album include *Woe*, *Alive With the Glory of Love*, the CD's first single, and *Yellow Cat/Red Cat*. These songs go through the various style of rock to create a refreshingly new sound. Though I would say these are the best songs on the album, almost every other track is a close second. There are 19 songs, all extremely enjoyable, something unusual for a debut album, which is often times a brief taste of what the band has to offer.

The one undeniable fact about Say Anything is that they are unique and full of attitude. Their music is both entertaining and organized, making this band easy to love. Say Anything's "...Is a Real Boy" is a great album, sure to inspire a whole new genre of rock music.

## New Freshmen Are Not Too Worried

By Seth Akers-Campbell  
Staff Writer

Freshman year... suddenly the all-powerful eighth graders are the babies of the high school. Jitters? Will the Class of 2011 be able to handle the sudden change of perspective (looking up rather than down) and the sudden loss of power?

The thought of high school can be nerve-wracking to some. One former MBA freshman, who wishes to remain anonymous, stated that he was nervous before the school year began, because he "hadn't known what to expect."

Andrew Powell thinks otherwise. The Mathcounts whiz thinks it is "just another school year, right?" But maybe it is not just another year. Andrew notes that Mr. Russ is "the man" and that "the biggest letdown of high school" will be not having him as a teacher.

What else about high school isn't cool? The work load seems to be the number one letdown of high school for the Class of 2011. The work "doesn't really excite" Tom Markham. But will the freshmen even take on the workload? Recent studies by CNN have shown that 45% of entering college freshmen claim to have an "A" average for their high school years, yet only a third spent more than six hours doing homework each WEEK in high school. The "senior slide" seems to be starting earlier. Will this class continue the national trend?

Jarvis Werkhaven is not excited about the work, either, but he says that he plans to work hard. He says high school

"should be fun," and Jarvis is right...it can be fun! Past freshmen, however, have all learned the same lesson: that sometimes high school is not so fun-  
THEME DAY. Freshman Gage Baxter knows what his class is in for; he has correctly described these late-night nightmares in one word, "UUUGHHH."

By the way, Jarvis, have you ever heard of the Mardu? "No," he says. Well, for those of you who are taking Ancient and Medieval History this year, they are hunter-gatherers who group in bands of 20-40 people.

And we can't forget the teachers that give us the homework, grade our themes, and teach us about those hunter-gatherers, tribesmen, and ancient civilizations. It is a shame that the Class of 2011 and the many classes after these new freshmen may never appreciate the similarity between Michael Risen and mycorrhizae (m+'kY'-r+'zY'). It is the teachers that make high school fun. Freshman Chris Goodrich claims he has heard of one crazy teacher who will go through an entire class without saying a word (but I know of two).

So, if there are any freshmen who are nervous, thoroughly unexcited, or new to MBA who are still not sure what to expect, do you remember the formerly nervous freshman from the second paragraph? He ended his statement saying that "in the end, it was all okay."